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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/839,003	04/20/2001	Lakshmi Kutty Cheeniyil	70006400-1	2741

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HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY  
Intellectual Property Administration  
P.O. Box 272400  
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER	
TANG, KENNETH	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2127	

DATE MAILED: 08/31/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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**Supplemental  
Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/839,003

Examiner

Kenneth Tang

Applicant(s)

CHEENIYIL ET AL.

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/20/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 5-8, and 10; now renumbered as 1-8.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 27 July 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)                                 |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>1/18/05</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment   |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance                                   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

  
**MENG-AL TAN**  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Heng Loon Wong on 1/18/05.

The Examiner mistakenly wrote the Examiner's Amendment in response to the claims on 2/1/05. This Supplemental Allowance fixes this problem by having this Examiner's Amendment to refer to the claims on 8/20/04. This Examiner's Amendment amends the claims exactly as the Applicant Amendment submitted on 2/1/05, and is exactly what was agreed upon during the interview on 1/18/05. The Amendment is as follows:

In the claims:

- Replace claim 1 with below:
  1. A method for managing a workflow process to bring execution time for said process at least closer to an expected deadline, said process including a plurality of work nodes and a set of priority levels associated with each work node, said method including the steps of:
    - generating for each work node a set of expected time to complete (ETC) values for each priority level, each ETC value denoting a cumulative time to complete the process including the

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time taken by the corresponding node to complete its activity for a selected priority level, wherein said ETC values are generated using formula  $ETC = \eta + 2\sigma$  and wherein  $\eta$  is a statistical mean and  $\sigma$  is a statistical standard deviation of values collected during a learning phase;

selecting for each work node a priority level that has a corresponding ETC value less than or equal to a remaining time available to meet said expected deadline; and

executing activities associated with said work nodes in accordance with said selected priority levels, thereby bringing execution time for said process at least closer to said expected deadline.

- Cancel Claim 4.

- Replace claim 6 with below:

6. A system for managing a workflow process to bring execution time for said process at least closer to an expected deadline, said process including a plurality of work nodes and a set of priority levels associated with each work node, said system including:

means for generating for each work node a set of expected time to complete (ETC) values for each priority level, each ETC value including a time taken by the corresponding node to complete its activity for a selected priority level, wherein said ETC values are generated using the formula  $ETC = \eta + 2\sigma$  and wherein  $\eta$  is a statistical mean and  $\sigma$  is a statistical standard deviation of values collected during a learning phase;

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means for selecting for each work node a priority level that has a corresponding ETC value less than or equal to a remaining time available to meet said expected deadline; and

means for executing activities associated with said work nodes in accordance with said selected priority levels, thereby bringing execution time for said process at least closer to said expected deadline.

- Cancel Claim 9.

### *Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenneth Tang whose telephone number is (571) 272-3772. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM - 6:00PM, Every other Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng-Ai An can be reached on (571) 272-3756. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

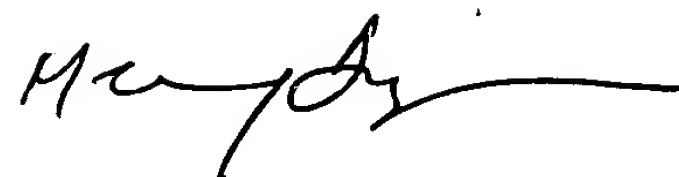
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8/29/05



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